Emily Joseph (Em-J)

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Deb Moore

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Effects of Fatherlessness on the Sexual Behavior of Women

Billy, J., Brewster, K., & Grady, W. (1994). Contextual effects on the sexual behavior of adolescent women. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *56*(3), 387-404. doi: http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=jmarriagefamily

John Billy, Karin Brewster and William Grady co-write this article from their research on premarital sexual behavior. Their studies focus on adolescent women, and the possible causes of early sexual activity. Their research includes social, psychological and physical characteristics that may influence adolescent women. The authors find that women’s sexual behavior is heavily reliant on their surrounding social influences.

Billy, Brewster and Grady analyze the cultural norms of communities to accurately display the influence of individual factors on the sexual behavior of adolescent women. The three effectively compare the effects of social surroundings on said behavior through research on individual and communal levels.

This article compares the influence of social surroundings on the use of contraceptives and premarital pregnancy. The article would be useful to compare factors other than the lack of a father in the increased sexual activity of women. Use in such a way could also argue that “fatherlessness” is not one of the main issues concerning premarital sexual activity.

Davis, K., & Kaats, G. (1970). The dynamics of sexual behavior of college students. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *32*(3), 390-399. doi: http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=jmarriagefamily

Davis and Kaats’s research involves

Kinnaird, K., & Gerrard, M. (1986). Premarital sexual behavior and attitudes toward marriage and divorce among young women as a function of their mothers' marital status. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *48*(4), 757-765. doi: http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=jmarriagefamily

Keri L. Kinnaird and Meg Gerrard co-write this article, discussing the cause and effects of the absence of a father. Kinnaird and Gerrard explore the psychological effects of divorced, reconstituted and intact families have on the premarital sexual behavior of women, and their attitudes towards marriage and divorce. They go on to analyze several aspects that possibly affect the outcome of these statistics, such as age at the time of divorce, family atmosphere, and personality variables, among others.

The authors effectively convey their purpose to the audience by using a conglomeration of previous research by credible sources. Kinnaird and Gerrard also conduct their own research to compare with previous findings. The article uses these conclusions to collectively discuss the effect of divorce and on a person’s attitude towards marriage and divorce. The research includes various relevant aspects to provide for an overall effective argument.

This article provides statistics on children of divorce, as well as reconstituted families, or lack of a father figure entirely. Not only does it discuss the attitudes of children and college age persons, it also discusses the affects on women’s attitudes and behavior towards divorce, marriage, and sexual activity.

Shah, F., & Zelnik, M. (1981). Parent and peer influence on sexual behavior, contraceptive use, and pregnancy experience of young women. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *43*(2), 339-348. doi: http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=jmarriagefamily

Farida Shah and Melvin Zelnik co-write this article to discuss the sexual behavior of young women, more specifically, ages 15-19. Their study is one of very few conducted concerning the influence of peers vs. parents and the use of contraceptives. As a result of use or disuse, they also explore the consequential pregnancy. Shah and Zelnik’s research upholds that women who are more influenced by their peers have a greater tendency to become pregnant.

The research conducted includes statistics on the expected education level, career goals, and views on premarital sex and abortion of women ages 15-19. Shah and Zelnik also factor in culture and race to more accurately convey their findings. Their findings are credible and effectively inform the audience of teens’ views and behavior in this area.

This article would aid in understanding the prevalence of fatherly advise, and the influence thereof, on women’s sexual activity before marriage. The article also provides useful and relevant statistics on women’s sexual activity as a result of various factors such as parental views, peer views, and race. The information, however, may be somewhat outdated, due to availability, acceptability and affordability of contraceptives and abortion.